



"Treatment with the Help of the Horse"

American Hippotherapy Association, Inc.

# *E-Bulletin*

Bulletin 002-07

October 2007

## An Update from AHA President Karen McPhail...

### **NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

We have hired our first Executive Director – Bonnie Cunningham, MA, PT HPCS. She is well known to all our AHA as our most recent Past President and current, active AHA Faculty member. The Board believes that Bonnie's expertise is a great way to help us reach the next level as a nationally recognized organization.

### **NEW LOGO**

We have a new circular logo. The artwork for our first AHA Hippotherapy Conference was such a hit and we have had such positive feedback since that the Board voted to use this logo to represent AHA. The design clearly reflects AHA's mission. The relationship of the caduceus, then the horse, then the person symbolizes our use of the medical model and the movement of the horse to affect the person. The circle listing all 3 therapy disciplines completes the picture and our tag line is "Treatment with the help of the horse". You will begin seeing our new logo on all new AHA materials.

## Hope to see you there...

**AHA Pre-Conference Workshop @ NARHA Conference**  
**Wednesday, November 14, 2007**  
**Anaheim, CA**

**Feldenkrais and Hippotherapy** Presented by Mary Debono.

The Feldenkrais Method is a body awareness system that therapists and horse people can adapt for their individual sessions and improve their clients or riders experience and enhance their own riding. The Feldenkrais Method is based on body movements that increase an individual's awareness and help improve function. The Feldenkrais teacher guides people through a sequence of movements that are organized around a functional activity, with participants learning how to involve their entire self in the movement. The result is elegant and virtually effortless. It is useful in improving general athletic ability, increasing physical and mental function and enhancing a person's potential for learning.

Workshop participants will gain an experiential and theoretical understanding of Moshe Feldenkrais' Awareness Through Movement lessons that will be chosen specifically for the usefulness to therapists. This is an exciting opportunity to benefit from knowledge that can help the people we work with, our horses and ourselves.

A life-long horse woman, Mary Debono is a Guild Certified Feldenkrais® Practitioner and the creator of the SENSE Method<sup>sm</sup>. She specializes in helping improve the comfort, athletic ability and freedom of movement of people and animals.

In addition to working with people, Mary has developed Equine SENSE to apply the Feldenkrais principles to horses and their movement. She uses hand-on movements to give the horse the experience of moving in a more harmonious and comfortable way. Then Mary applies these same principles to horse-rider partnerships.

Registration information for the AHA Pre-Conference Workshop can be obtained from NARHA directly, [www.narha.org](http://www.narha.org) or 1.800.369.7433.

Feldenkrais®, Feldenkrais Method®, Awareness Through Movement®, and Functional Integration® are registered service marks of the Feldenkrais Guild® of North America. SENSE and SENSE Method are service marks of Mary Debono.

**EDUCATION NEWS...**

### **New on-line course**

AHA and Texas A&M University are proud to announce an on-line Continuing Education series called Equine Facilitated Activities and Therapy. Foundations of Hippotherapy is one of four tracks being offered to individuals who may have an interest in hippotherapy, or are PT's, OT's, or SLP's who would like to learn more about hippotherapy. The course is offered at a basic, introductory level and therapists are encouraged to enroll in an AHA approved course if this online course has interested them. The other three tracks are Horse Management, Equine Facilitated Psychotherapy and Therapeutic Riding. To learn more, please visit <http://capso.tamu.edu> and click on All Programs.

### **New Book in the future! Your photos are needed!**

Hippotherapy is a very complicated treatment strategy, encompassing three different disciplines whose main purpose is to improve the function of patients. A textbook that incorporates physical, occupational and speech/language in HPOT is currently not available. Your AHA Faculty and Board of Directors (mainly the Education Committee) have taken on the challenge of writing such a book. With gracious invitation and permission from Jan Spink, her book *Developmental Riding Therapy* will be edited and re-written with the focus on hippotherapy. For those of you who appreciate all of the equine information in her text, rest assured that this material will remain intact. In planning for this book, "a picture is worth a thousand words" and we want pictures!! Please send photos of high quality (300 dpi minimum) depicting treatment and be sure to identify PT, OT, SLT or co-treatment. Photo releases should explain that the picture may be used in a textbook for educational purposes. Signed releases will be filed at the AHA office and a copy needs to be retained with the patient's therapist and/or program. For more information, contact Sarah Pictor at [pictors@dyc.edu](mailto:pictors@dyc.edu)

## **RESEARCH NEWS...**

### **\$1000.00 AHA Research Grant Award**

Congratulations to Danielle Champagne OT, the recipient of the \$1000.00 AHA Research Grant for **The Kinematic Evaluation of hippotherapy treatment in Children with Down Syndrome**. The ten week study is almost finished and was supported in part by the University of Quebec. Outcome measures include the Gross Motor Function Measure (GMFM) and videographed kinematic analysis with accelerometers attached to the horse and the study subjects.

### **\$20,000.00 AHA Research Grant Award**

Congratulations to Ruth Dismuke-Blakely MS/CCC-SLP HPCS, the recipient of a one-time AHA Research Grant award of \$20,000.00. Skyline Therapy Services in Edgewood NM and the University of New Mexico Speech and Hearing Sciences Department will investigate **The Impact of Hippotherapy as a Treatment Tool on Functional Communication in Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder**. The study begins November 1, 2007 using videotaped speech/language samples of 36 participants transcribed into Systematic Analysis of Language Transcripts (SALT).

### **Research Committee Growth**

The AHA Research Committee has added several new members in 2007. The members of the committee are :

Renee Casady PT	Deb Silkwood-Sherer PT	Nancy McGibbon PT
Victoria Haehl PT	Lisa Harris PT	Beth Marcoux PT
Becky Lundeen SLP	Beth Macauley SLP	Meredith Bazaar SLP
Kathy Splinter-Watkins OT	*	*

\* To completely represent our membership and future research efforts, Occupational Therapists with research experience who are seriously interested in serving on the AHA research committee are encouraged to submit a letter of interest, bio or curriculum vitae to the AHA research chair: Renee Casady [Casady@2access.net](mailto:Casady@2access.net)

### **Hippotherapy Safety Survey**

To establish a record of safety in hippotherapy, members of AHA are invited and encouraged to participate in a short on-line survey. The long term goal is to report and publish a 3-5 year record of safety of hippotherapy treatment sessions by OT, PT, SLP. The survey should only take 5-10 minutes. Click here to participate in the survey:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=fLlr2wnxhNBH%2bUwCRspltg%3d%3d>

## Hippotherapy Clinical Specialist Review now available...

An HPSC Review course is scheduled to be held on the Saturday of the NARHA Conference (11/17). The course will be a full day and cover the areas that are outlined in the examination booklet. This course will also offer time for participants to ask specific questions regarding hippotherapy and horsemanship.

The course fee is \$100. Please contact: Bonnie Cunningham at: [bdc1m@aol.com](mailto:bdc1m@aol.com) to register for the course. Payment for the course must be paid October 31<sup>st</sup>.

## AHA Approved Workshop Calendar...

### 2007

#### Level I Workshops

October 18-21, 2007

The Children's TherAplay Foundation, Inc.

9919 Towne Road

Carmel, IN 46032

Raquel M. Ravinet – 317.872.4166

[Raquel.ravinat@childrenstheraplay.org](mailto:Raquel.ravinat@childrenstheraplay.org)

AHA Faculty: Lori Garone, PT, HPSC

#### Level II Workshops

October 25-28, 2007

Somerset Hills Handicapped Riding Center

83 Old Turnpike Road

Oldwick, NJ 08858

Kathy Brennan – 908.439.9636

[shhrcpd@earthlink.net](mailto:shhrcpd@earthlink.net)

AHA Faculty: Bonnie Cunningham, PT, HPSC/Claudia Morin, OT, HPSC

November 1-4, 2007

Greenlock Therapeutic Riding Center

55 Summer Street

Rehoboth, MA 02769

Edith Wislocki – 508.252.5814

[Greenlock1@tmlp.com](mailto:Greenlock1@tmlp.com)

AHA Faculty: Liz Baker, PT, HPSC/Ruth Dismuke-Blakley, MS/CCC-SLP, HPSC

### 2008

#### Level I Workshops

March 27-30, 2008

Somerset Hills Handicapped Riding Center

83 Old Turnpike Road

Oldwick, NJ 08858

Kathy Brennan – 908.439.9636

[shhrcpd@earthlink.net](mailto:shhrcpd@earthlink.net)

AHA Faculty: Bonnie Cunningham, PT, HPSC

#### Level II Workshops

February 21-24, 2008

Texas Tech University

University Therapeutic Riding Center

Box 42141

Lubbock, TX 79407

Heather Hernandez – 806.792.4683

[Heather.hernandez@ttu.edu](mailto:Heather.hernandez@ttu.edu)

AHA Faculty: Ruth Dismuke-Blakely, MS/CCC-SLP, HPSC/Joann Benjamin, PT, HPSC

## Western Michigan Grad's...

Please contact Linda Thiede at the AHA Office if you wish to be listed as a Level II Therapist on the AHA Find A Therapist Listing.

### **Classic AHA Merchandise now available from the AHA Office....**

We are excited to offer our membership Classic AHA Merchandise (with embroidered Triangle Shape AHA Logo) at a discounted rate. We currently have Long Sleeved Light Blue Denim Shirts available in Women's Sizes Sm, Md, Lg, XL, XXL available for \$18.00 (+\$4.95 S&H) and Men's Sizes L and XL for \$20.00 (+\$4.95 S&H). We also have navy \_ zip pullover sweatshirt with collar in Md, Lg, XL, and XXL for \$20.00 (+\$4.95 S&H). Please contact Linda, at the AHA office, with your orders. If you have received an AHA Merchandise Gift Certificate with your new membership, you can apply it toward this purchase. Hurry, supplies are limited!

**American Hippotherapy Association, Inc.**

**136 Bush Road**

**Damascus, PA 18415**

**1.888.851.4592**

**FAX 1.570.224.4461**

**[www.americanhippotherapyassociation.org](http://www.americanhippotherapyassociation.org)**